



NO. 383
JAN.



Detective  Comics presents

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

12¢



BATMAN and ROBIN



LISTEN TO THIS
KOOKY FORTUNE--
COOKIE, **BATMAN!**

"CONDEMNED
MEN HAVE
EATEN
LAST MEAL!"

Go ahead, spoil him. It's Christmas.

CLIP THIS AD AND LEAVE WHERE PARENTS CAN SEE



He's too old to write Santa, but you know he'd flip if you give him a home race set this year.

So while you're about it, get him the best. Revell. You'll find exciting features like big, easy-to-read lap counters that record 50 laps, and a high-speed banked track. Cars accelerate through the steep banked curve, then roar out in a blaze of speed. Lanes in the bank widen so cars can pass in the curve!

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So go ahead, spoil him a little with a Revell Home Race Set. He's been an angel all year, right?

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STORY
BY
FRANK
ROBBINS



BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

ART BY
BOB BROWN
&
JOE GIELLA



HOLD ON...

...WE'LL
SAVE YOU!

HELP!

HELP!

I AM A

PRISONER

IN A CHINESE

BAKERY

FORTUNE TAKES
A STRANGE TWIST
WHEN THE OLDEST...
AND UNFUNNIEST...
GAG IN THE WORLD
COMES TO LIFE AND
PLUNGES BATMAN
AND ROBIN INTO
A CHINESE
PUZZLE MENU
THAT RUNS THE
GAMUT FROM
SOUP TO
KUMQUATS
IN ...

The

FORTUNE-COOKIE CAPER!

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THE POST-MIDNIGHT HOURS... AS THE DYNAMIC DUO PRESSES ON WITH ITS LONG NIGHT'S PATROL...

POOR ALFRED... RATES A NIGHT OFF! HE WAS JUST TOO BUSHED TO PREPARE OUR USUAL SANDWICHES AND COFFEE, ROBIN...

...SO LET'S STOP FOR A QUICK SNACK!

I'M ASHAMED TO SAY THIS, BATMAN-- BUT I HAVE A REAL YEN FOR CHINESE FOOD!

Tommy Chees

HA! BATMAN AND YOUNG ROBIN! YOU... HEE! HEE!... GET SUDDEN YEN FOR CHINESE COOKING? PLEASE FORGIVE BAD CHINESE JOKE!

TOMMY-- CAN YOU WHIP US UP A FAST 1 FROM COLUMN A... 2 FROM COLUMN B? WE CAN'T BE OFF DUTY LONG!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

HA, HA! DIG THIS, BATMAN! "CONFUCIUS SAY: MAN WHO KEEPS NOSE IN AIR OFTEN SNOBS TOE!" WOW... THESE FORTUNE-COOKIE SAYINGS ARE THE MOST!

UH-HUH... THEY BREAK ME UP! OH, YING... CHECK, PLEASE!

UPL!



HAVE READY ALREADY, HONORABLE BATMAN!

PLOP

SKIP IT, YING... WE'RE PRACTICALLY FINISHED ANYWAY! BESIDES... MAYBE THIS COOKIE WILL BRING US GOOD FORTUNE!

TERRIBLE REGRET! I BRING YOU NEW CUP TEA...



OH... NO! NOT... THIS?





GOT IT!
THEY'LL
NEVER
KNOW
WHAT
HIT 'EM!

MAYBE NOT,
CHUG... BUT
THEY'RE NO
JERKS!
THEY
READ IT,
REMEMBER?



SO WHAT?
SEE...
IT'S THE
OLD
"PRISONER
IN A
BAKERY"
BIT! WHY
SHOULD
THAT
HOT THEM
UP?

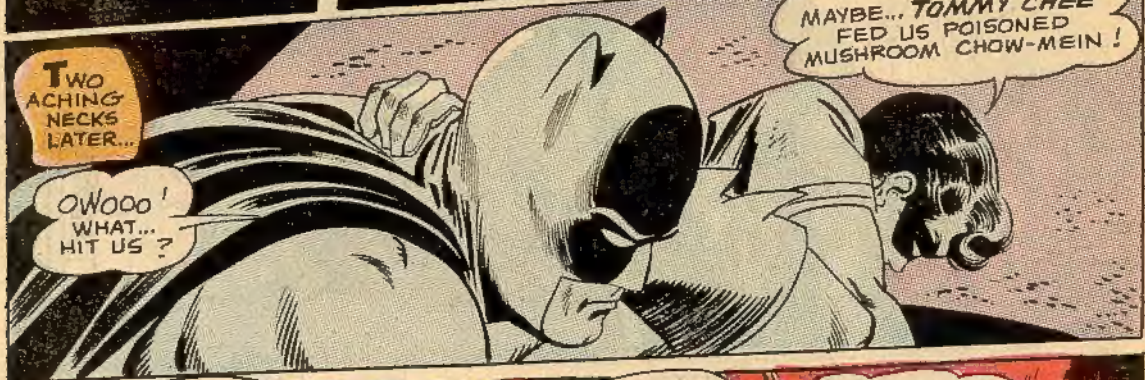
'CAUSE
WE HIT
THEM TO
GET IT!
WOULDN'T
THAT MAKE
EVEN YOUR
THICK HEAD
SUSPICIOUS?



YE-AH...
NEVER
THOUGHT
O' THAT!

OKAY--
SO I GOT
A GREAT
IDEA FOR
A COVER!

IT BETTER
BE GOOD!
WE DON'T
WANT THEM
CLIMBING
ALL OVER
US WHEN
WE PULL
IT OFF!



TWO
ACHING
NECKS
LATER...

OWOOD!
WHAT...
HIT US?

MAYBE... TOMMY CHEE
FED US POISONED
MUSHROOM CHOW-MEIN!



NOW...I REMEMBER!
HEARD SHUFFLING
FOOTSTEPS--

WE MUST'VE BEEN
"CHOPPED" FROM
BEHIND!

OH, BOY--
BATMAN
AND ROBIN...
PATSIES FOR
A MUGGING!
BETTER SEE
WHAT THEY
TOOK!

ODD...NOTHING
MISSING ON
ME...

SAME HERE...

WAIT A MINUTE--
THAT FORTUNE-
COOKIE SAYING!
IT'S...GONE!



WHO WOULD SLUG US... JUST FOR A CONFUCIUS SAY?

MAYBE IT MEANT SOMETHING ELSE... TO SOMEONE ELSE?

THAT MAY BE IT, ROBIN! IF THAT FORTUNE-COOKIE WAS MEANT FOR SOMEONE ELSE... BEFORE WE ACCIDENTALLY GOT IT--

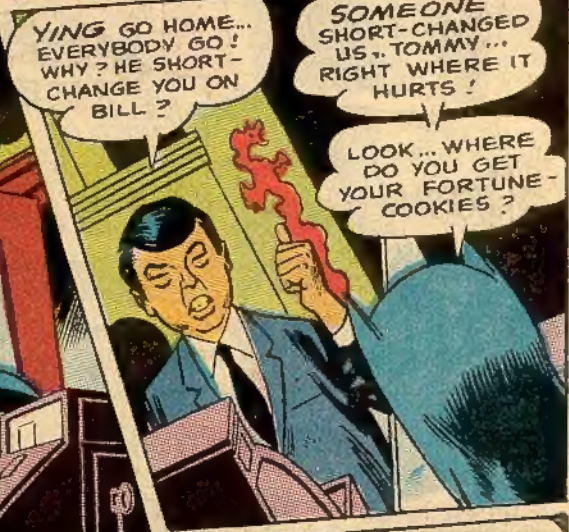


THOSE TWO MEN IN THE CORNER BOOTH...?



BACK SO SOON? DON'T TELL ME YOU HUNGRY AGAIN? NOT EVEN... HOUR GO BY!

NO TIME FOR FEEBLE HUMOR, TOMMY... WHERE'S THAT WAITER?



YING GO HOME... EVERYBODY GO! WHY? HE SHORT-CHANGE YOU ON BILL?

SOMEONE SHORT-CHANGED US... TOMMY... RIGHT WHERE IT HURTS!

LOOK... WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR FORTUNE-COOKIES?



HO! HO! YOU LIKE CORNY SAYINGS? NEVER THINK YOU SO "SQUARE", BATMAN!

COME FROM SAME PLACE YIN YAN BAKERY GET... HONG KONG! ALL IMPORT...

IT FIGURES, ROBIN... EVERYTHING'S BIG BUSINESS NOW! YAN'S BAKERY PROBABLY ONLY SUPPLIES PERISHABLES... LIKE WON-TON... EGG-ROLLS... AND STUFF LIKE THAT!

COOKIES COME FROM YIN YAN BAKERY... ON PELL STREET! HOW MANY YOU NEED? I HAVE PRE-PACKED BOXES... READY FOR TAKE OUT!

YUM YUM FORTUNE COOKIES
MADE IN HONG KONG BY Y-Y CO. LTD.



NOVEMBER, 1968

Cutty Sark

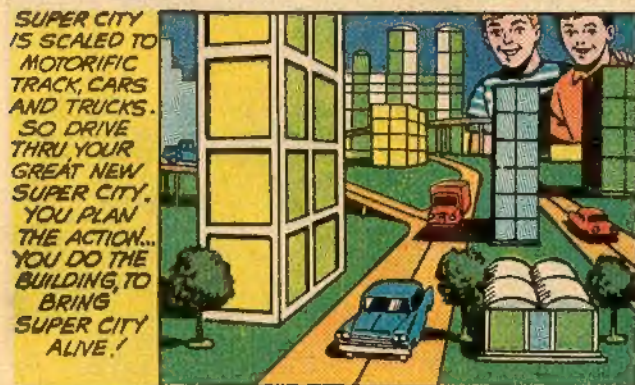
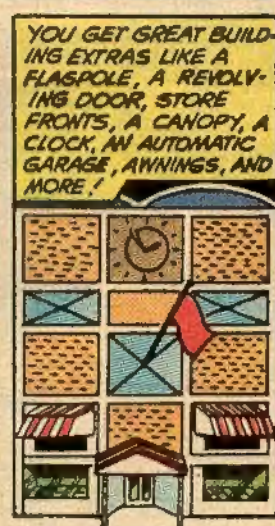
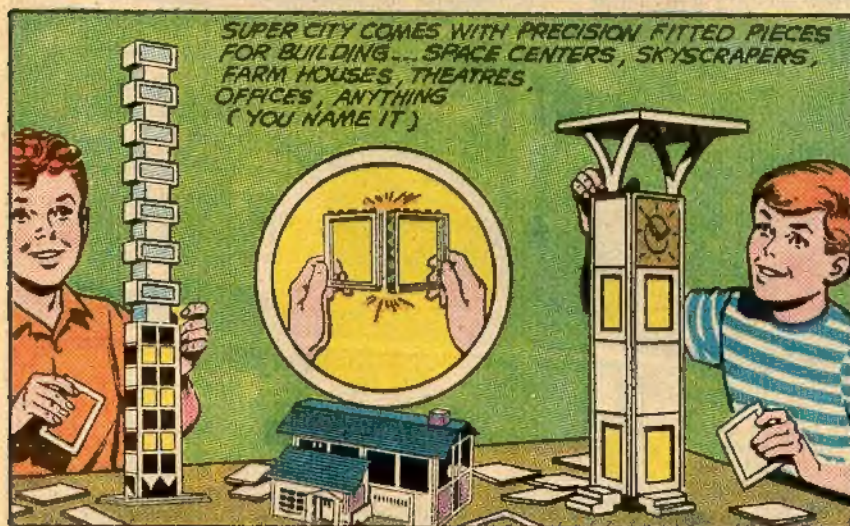
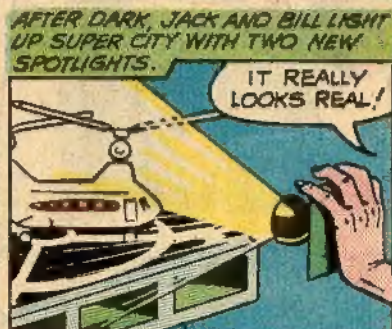
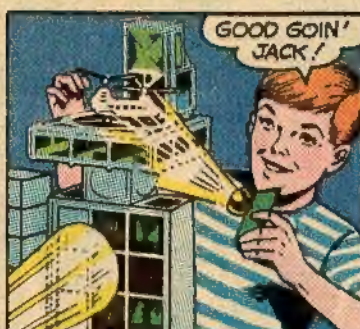
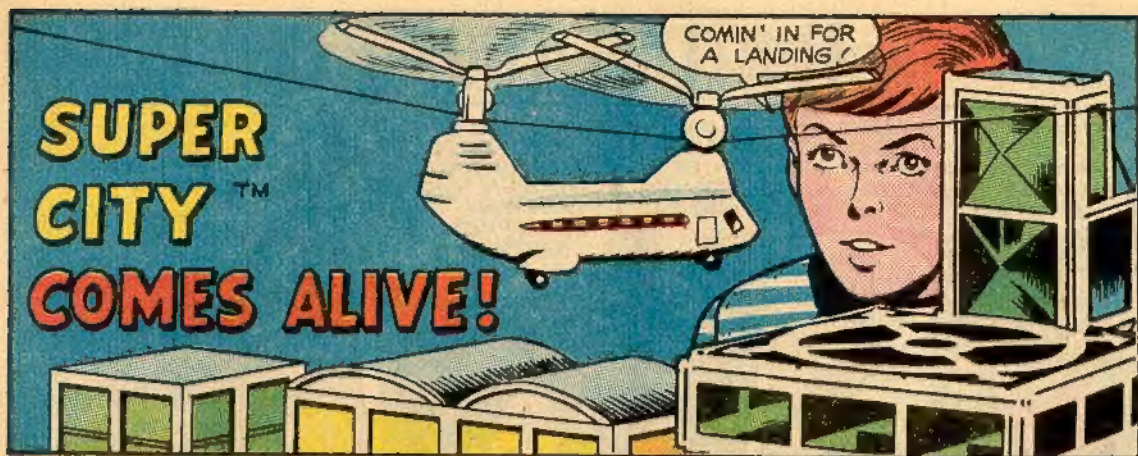


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Model of the Month
Cutty Sark





GET ALL THE ACTION WITH SUPER CITY.



FROM **IDEAL**

PART 2—"The FORTUNE-COOKIE CRUMBLES!"

MAYBE "NO. 25" BREAKS YOU UP, TOMMY-- BUT WHY DID SOMEONE ALMOST BREAK US UP TO GET IT?

I STILL THINK MY HUNCH IS RIGHT!

SO...WE'LL START WITH YOUR THEORY!

HEY...YOU FORGET COOKIES! OR MAYBE YOU WANT FRESH ONES... YIN YAN TELL ME HE EXPECT NEW SHIPMENT IN TONIGHT!

A NEW SHIPMENT FROM HONG KONG? WHEN... AND WHERE DOES IT COME IN?

WE ONLY HAVE TWO POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO US, ROBIN! ONE, THE OBVIOUS, THAT YOU'RE RIGHT! TWO... THAT THE MESSAGE WAS SOME SORT OF CODE!

AROUND MIDNIGHT... AT GOTHAM FREIGHTYARDS. TRAIN COMES FROM 'FRISCO AFTER TAKE OFF FROM SHIP!

NOW I'VE GOT A HUNCH, ROBIN! WE'RE GOING TO SPLIT... I'LL DROP YOU OFF AT YIN YAN'S BAKERY...

...SO YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR WAY-OUT THEORY! I WANT A LOOK AT THAT FREIGHT-TRAIN!

A SHORT TIME LATER, BEHIND THE BAKERY...

WE'LL KEEP IN TOUCH VIA OUR TWO-WAY RADIO! FIRST ONE WHO HITS A WINNER... CONTACTS THE OTHER!

GET SET FOR A QUICK TURN-BACK, BATMAN! THIS HAS GOT TO BE IT!

AS ROBIN BURSTS IN...

OKAY... WHERE'S THE "PRISONER"?

PRISONER? YOU CRAZY... NO PRISONER HERE! JUST... RAW EGG-ROLLS!

METHINKS
YOU PROTEST
TOO MUCH--

GLURG!

CONFUCIUS SAY:
"LITTLE MAN WITH
BIG MOUTH... GET
FACE FULL
EGG-ROLLS!"

CONFUCIUS
ALSO SAY:
"BOASTFUL BAKER
PUT MOUTH WHERE
FIST IS!"

PLUFF

SUDDENLY... FROM A
CORNER CLOSET!

RAT-TAT-TAT

HE-LEP!

I WAS RIGHT!
THERE IS
SOMEONE...
IN THERE!

OH THANK
THE HEAVENS
OF MY
ANCESTORS!
YOU GOT MY
DISTRESS
NOTE!

*It can be a Merrier
and a Happier...
With...*



ON SALE
NOV. 7th

HAH! AND BATMAN
WOULDN'T LISTEN
TO ME! WHO ARE
YOU... WHY ARE YOU
BEING HELD
PRISONER?

I AM... HU SHI!
THE EVIL OWNER
OF THIS BAKERY...
YIN YAN... WANTS
TO FORCE ME TO
MARRY HIM
AGAINST MY WILL!
SAID HE'D KEEP
ME HERE TILL...

LUCKY I TOOK
YOUR MESSAGE
SERIOUSLY! WAIT'LL
I RADIO BATMAN
AND TELL--
OOF!

TEE-HEE!
COOKIE
BRINGS BAD
FORTUNE TO
SNOOPING
NUMBER-ONE
BOY OF
BATMAN
TEAM!

IDIOTS!!
YOU HAVE
OVERPLAYED
OUR HAND...!

BUT, HONORABLE
BROTHER, YIN YAN...
WE WERE SUPPOSED
TO MAKE IT LOOK
CONVINCING!

YES, YOU WERE
SUPPOSED TO
PRETEND BEING
HELD CAPTIVE...
SO IF BATMAN
AND ROBIN
FOLLOWED UP ON
THAT FORTUNE-
COOKIE NOTE...

..THE TRAIL WOULD END
HERE! THEN... WHEN YOU
REFUSED TO PRESS
CHARGES AGAINST ME,
THEY'D BE FORCED TO
DROP THE CASE!

NOW... WITH
BATMAN STILL
ON THE LOOSE
AND ROBIN
KNOCKED OUT...
WE MAY HAVE
TO MAKE OTHER
PLANS!

BUT, HONORABLE
BROTHER... IF
NUMBER-ONE
BOY IS MISSING...
SOONER OR
LATER--

AH, YES, HU SHI...
SOMETIMES
YOU ARE NOT
LACKING IN
WIT! SOONER
OR LATER...
BATMAN MUST
COME HERE
LOOKING FOR
HIM!

AT THAT MOMENT,
AT THE GOTHAM
FREIGHTYARDS...

LOADING
PLATFORM
7

I'VE TRIED MENTALLY
TO DECODE THAT
CORNBALL MESSAGE...
WITH NO LUCK!
TOMMY CHEE'S CLUE...
NO. 25... MIGHT BE
THE ANSWER, IF I
CAN FIGURE WHERE
IT FITS!

L&A

UH-UH... NOT
THE NUMBER OF
THE LOADING
PLATFORM! AND
THIS "TRANS-COAST"
FREIGHT HAS
WELL OVER 25
BOXCARS IN IT!

YET THAT NO. 25
HAS GOT TO MEAN
SOMETHING!
ONE OF THESE
CARS CONTAINS
YIN YAN'S
SHIPMENT
OF FORTUNE-
COOKIES--
BUT WHICH
ONE?

SUDDENLY...
AS HE RACES
ALONG IN THE
DEADLY STILL
FREIGHT YARD...

KTHUMP

THUD

KWUMP

SOMEONE INSIDE
THAT LOCKED
BOXCAR...

WE-LL, THERE ARE
MORE WAYS TO
SKIN A CAT... OR
BREAK INTO A
SEALED CAR!
AND ODDS ARE...
INSIDE I'LL
FIND--

-- THE THUGS
WHO DROPPED
US OUTSIDE
TOMMY CHEE'S
RESTAURANT!

DON'T BEAT UP
THE CARGO, CHUG!
THERE'S ONLY 50 CRATES
ASSIGNED TO YIN YAN'S
BAKERY... AN' ALL WE
WANT IS THE ONE
MARKED-- NO. 25!

THE SWEETEST LI'L
CODE IN THE WORLD...
THE BOYS IN HONG KONG
SENDING US IN ADVANCE--
FORTUNE-COOKIE MESSAGES
IN GAS-NUMBER CODE!



HERE IT IS!
GOOD OLD
"HELP! I'M A
PRISONER."
GAG NO. 25!

I'LL LIFT IT
UP FIRST--
THEN WE .

THANKS, BOYS...
I'LL TAKE
THAT !

B-BATMAN ?!
CLUNK THE
CLINGING
CREEP,
CHUG !

KCHANGG

LIGHTS OUT,
BRIGHT
BOY !

I'LL MAKE
HIM SEE
THE LIGHT !



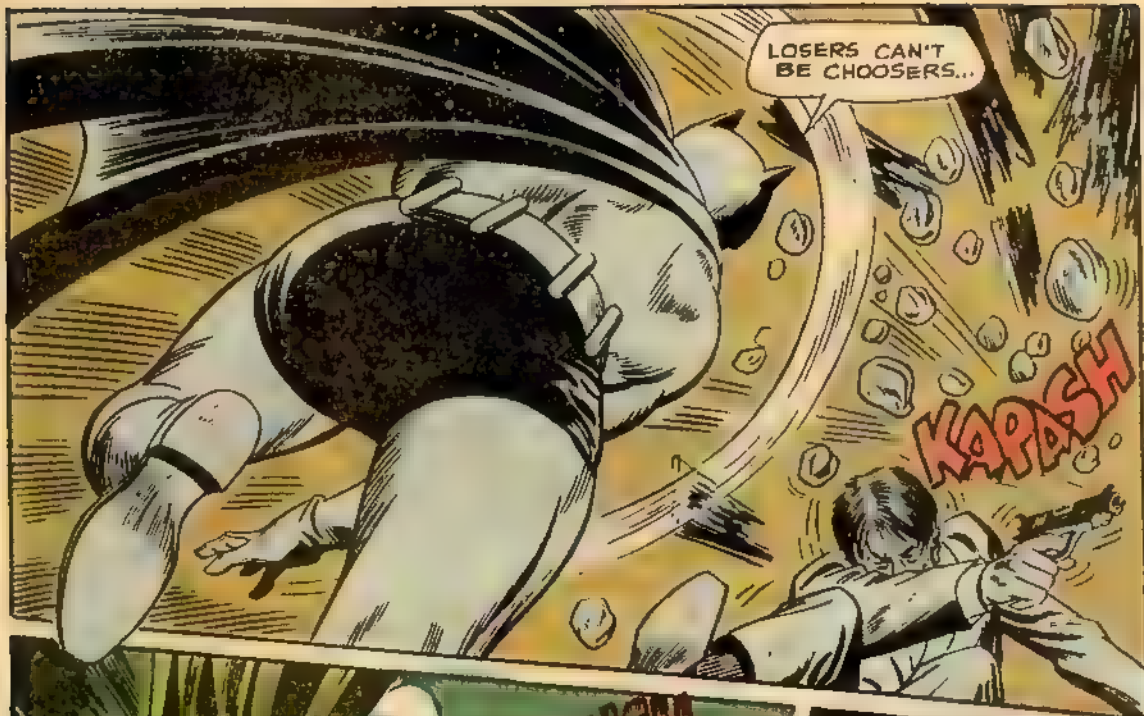
MAYBE YOU
OUT-BOXED
HIM, **BATMAN**...
BUT TRY YOUR
FORTUNE
WITH THESE
COOKIES '

LET'S SEE...
HOW THE
COOKIE
CRUMBLES,
CRUMB !



I'M A
PRETTY
TOUGH
COOKIE,
CREEP...

NO...NOT
THAT ONE!
NOT...
NO-25!



LOSERS CAN'T
BE CHOOSERS...

KAPASH



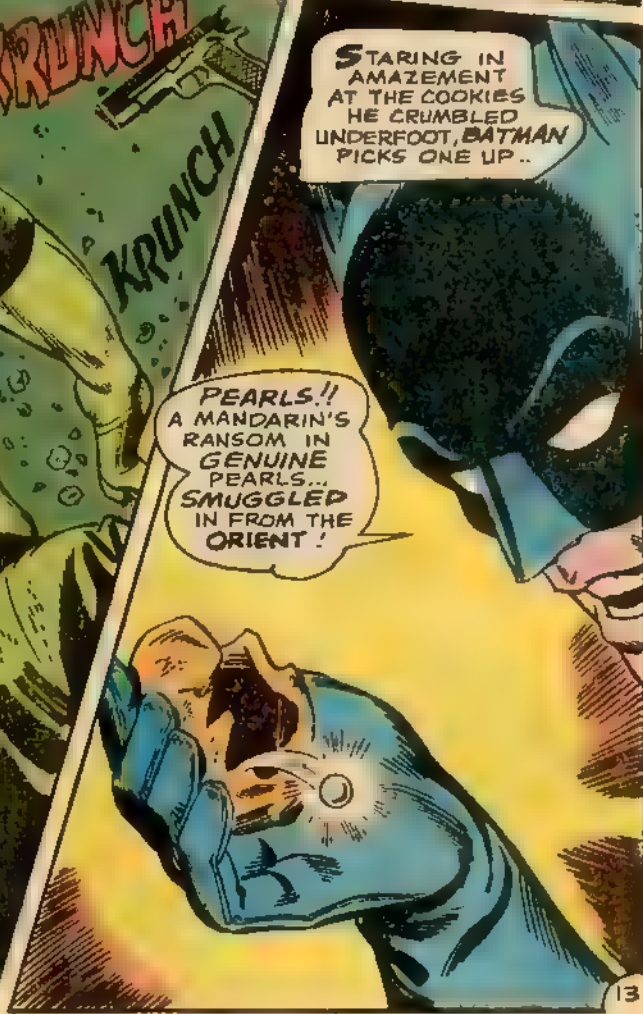
KRUNCH

KRUNCH

...AND I
DON'T
CHOOSE
TO LOSE!

STARING IN
AMAZEMENT
AT THE COOKIES
HE CRUMBLER
UNDERFOOT, BATMAN
PICKS ONE UP..

PEARLS!!
A MANDARIN'S
RANSOM IN
GENUINE
PEARLS...
SMUGGLED
IN FROM THE
ORIENT!



LATER, IN
YIN YAN'S
BAKERY...

FINALLY COMING OUT
OF IT, ROBIN? I'VE
BEEN WAITING LONG
ENOUGH FOR YOUR
BATMAN BUDDY TO
COME AND "RESCUE" YOU!

OHH, P-PLEASE,
ROBIN...YIN YAN
DOES NOT
MAKE JOKES!

ROBIN
CALLING
BATMAN!
COME IN,
BATMAN!
URGENT... DO
YOU READ ME?

LOUD
AND...

SO NOW YOU'RE
GOING TO BRING
HIM HERE FOR ME!
CALL HIM ON YOUR
TWO-WAY RADIO...
OR I CLOSE OUT
MISSY HU SHI!

CLEAR!

YOU DIDN'T NEED
A RADIO TO CALL
ME, ROBIN! I'VE
BEEN GETTING AN
EARFUL FROM
UP HERE!

BEFORE
YOU CAME
TO... I
OVERHEARD
YIN YAN...

...PLOTING
WITH HIS
SISTER,
HU SHI!

S-SISTER...?!

THAT'S RIGHT,
ROBIN...THEY'RE
IN CAHOOTS! THEY'VE
BEEN USING THIS
BAKERY AS A
FRONT FOR A
PEARL-SMUGGLING
OPERATION!

BUT
HOW...
WHERE?

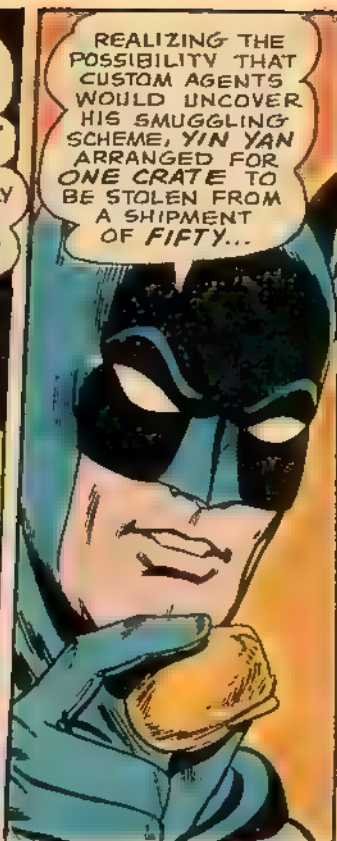
BAKED INTO FORTUNE-COOKIES...
IN HONG KONG! BUT WHEN WE
ACCIDENTALLY INTERCEPTED
THAT CODED "HELP! I'M A
PRISONER..." MESSAGE...

THEIR PAID
HIJACKERS
NOTIFIED
THEM... AND
THEY FAKED
THIS
"CAPTIVE"
BIT BY USING
HU SHI AS
THE "BAIT".

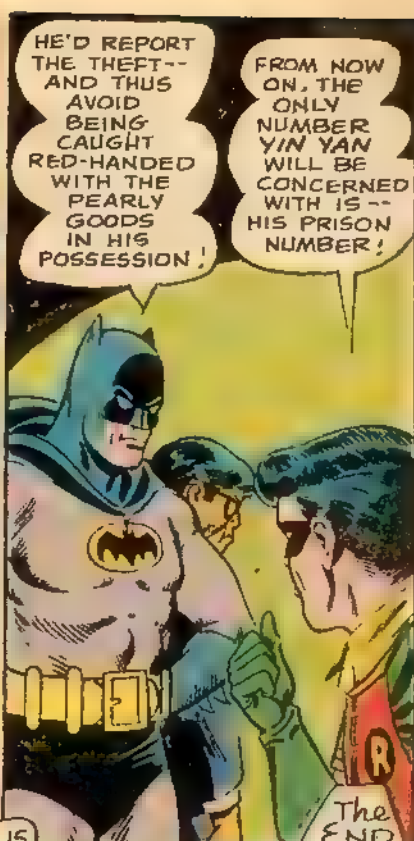


YOU MEAN THE TWO THUGS WHO SLUGGED US WERE PAID HIJACKERS? BUT WHY WOULD YIN YAN PAY...

..TO HIJACK A SHIPMENT OF PEARLS FROM HIMSELF? BECAUSE HE WAS DIABOLICALLY CLEVER... AND CAUTIOUS!



REALIZING THE POSSIBILITY THAT CUSTOM AGENTS WOULD UNCOVER HIS SMUGGLING SCHEME, YIN YAN ARRANGED FOR ONE CRATE TO BE STOLEN FROM A SHIPMENT OF FIFTY...



HE'D REPORT THE THEFT-- AND THUS AVOID BEING CAUGHT RED-HANDED WITH THE PEARLY GOODS IN HIS POSSESSION!

FROM NOW ON, THE ONLY NUMBER YIN YAN WILL BE CONCERNED WITH IS -- HIS PRISON NUMBER!

15

The END

The gang goes for BOOBY-TRAP!



JUST WHAT I WANTED FOR CHRISTMAS!



HEY, WHAT A GROOVY GAME!

I JUST PICKED OUT A BIG PIECE--THEY COUNT FOR MORE POINTS!

ZAP!
I TRIGGERED THE SPRING-BAR AND SCATTERED THE PIECES! NOW IT'S YOUR TURN. THIS WOULD BE FUN AT BOB'S PARTY. LET'S TAKE IT WITH US!

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BATMAN'S HOT-LINE

Dear Editor:

So what! This is the exclamatory thought that struck me when I saw the cover of *Detective Comics* 378. I wasn't too shook up about the *Caped Crime-Busters* splitting because they had previously done so in "Tec (good nickname, Editor?), and probably many other times before that. The first-parter, "Batman! Drop Dead—Twice!" wasn't too hot, mainly because of the improbable occurrence of the *Duo* splitting up. (After 20-odd years of fighting crime and sharing rejuvenation fluid, they're splitting up, huh? Sure!)

But the second-parter, "Two Killings—For the Price of One" (in "Tec 379) was very, very good! Aside from the unreasonable sight of depicting the *Batman*-disguised Alfred with a muscular frame, it was a well-written story. It moved quickly and all the pieces seemed to fit in well. *Chino* stealing the *Batmobile* was a neat touch. Another professional touch was a gangland version of *Batman* and *Robin* (*Salvo-Chino*). I was secretly hoping they wouldn't be captured, but obviously this was not allowed to come true.

All in all, *Detectives* 378-379 gave us the best Frank Robbins story yet . . . with the possible exception of *The Atom* he did in issue 38.

Now on to the *Elongated Man*. The adventure of the *Ductile Detective* in 379, "The Elongated Man's Magic Moment," was good. Though it involved no deduction, it was still entertaining. Focus your eyes on Ralph's enjoyment with his nephew's kite and his hilarious difficulty at pronouncing those magic words backwards!

Before signing off, allow me to comment on Dennis Palumbo's letter. His suggestion to eliminate the *Elongated Man* really made me boil! Mr. Editor, don't you dare EVER take the *Stretchable Sleuth* out! He makes the comic! When *Batman* was going through his camp stage, along with his ridiculous stories, the *Elongated Man* yarns were always (with an exception or two) entertaining! The *Pliable Policeman* is the one hero I can laugh with instead of at!

—Mike Barr, Akron, Ohio

(Your pointed remarks about the *Elongated Man* are dulled by a trio of follow-up critics—after which we'll have an important announcement. Until, then, hold tight!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I wish with all the changes occurring to your other heroes, that something would happen to the *Elongated Man*. Right now, I'm just a tiny bit bored with the pattern of mystery established—*EM* beats up some thugs while cracking jokes in awkward positions (I used to like the ludicrous ways he'd maneuver his body, but all the good ones have been exhausted already), and then explains the whole case to Sue, the police, or whomever.

—Harvey Sobel, Commack, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

Even though Gardner Fox is supplying better plots for the *Elongated Man*, I dislike the way they are being carried out. Why don't you have the readers vote to see

if we want *EM* continued, or want some other feature substituted?

—Allen Benner, Hanover, Pa.

Dear Editor:

A gripe about the latest *Elongated Man* atrocity in *Detective* 379, "The Elongated Man's Magic Moment." I don't extactly welcome with open arms Gardner Fox's all-too-frequent quickie excursions into slapstick. Another factor which prevented me from rolling out a red carpet for the story was the resurrection of *Zatara the Magician* from a well-deserved grave. Next thing you know Fox will be revving *Peter Porkchops*!

—Martin Pasko, Clifton, N.J.

(The current *Elongated Man* yarn marks the end of this series—at least as far as *Detective Comics* appearances are concerned! Starting with the February issue — *BAT-GIRL*, in solo adventures of her own, alternating with *ROBIN*, on his own! There'll be a one-issue interruption with the May *Detective*—the 30th Anniversary Issue—for which we are planning a monumental surprise!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I think that when Frank Robbins decided to write that story for *Detectives* 378-379, he had not heard that the television show had gone off the air. His opening into the second part, ". . . while in the penthouse of *Salvo*, another masquerade is planned . . . *Batman* and *Alfred* are faced with a deadly dilemma!" makes me feel like trumpets will play a couple of quick runs and then the chorus will start singing, "*Batman . . . Batman . . .*" I mean, for a *Batman-Detective* story, "Two Killings - for the Price of One" was one of the worst stories I have read in a long time in *Detective*. He used several plot devices which would have gotten by on the TV show, but which shouldn't have been allowed in the pages of *Detective*. For instance, *Chino* should never have been allowed to hear or see *Alfred* in a *Batman* costume referring to *Robin* as his "Master"!

However, I suppose such a terrible story would have to have one high point, and the high point was better than all of most stories. I'm referring to the page where *Salvo* goes after *Chino* with his hired guns. After this momentary high point, though, the story went back to being its ordinary, awful self. And the concluding panel, with *Dick* saying, "Guess you 'over-thirties' do have something to contribute to us teeners—besides giving us a good time . . ." almost made me sick.

—Steven Carlberg, Shreveport, La.

(To elevate one of your "low" points in the story when *Alfred* called out to the Boy Wonder as "Master *Robin*" in the presence of *Chino*, the caption of the very next panel explains. "While they talk, *Chino*, head spinning, hears nothing . . ." So that makes your complaint much ado about nothing too!—Editor)

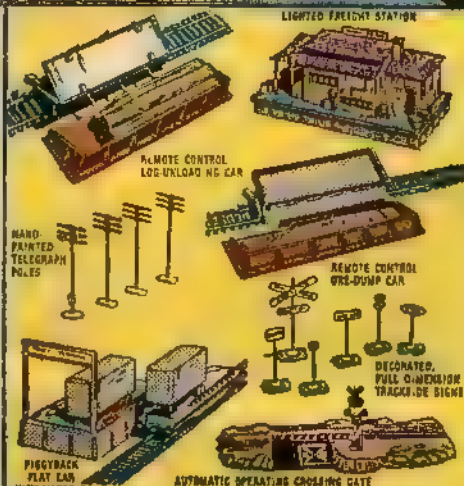
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A YEAR TO REMEMBER...

A YEAR TO FORGET!

ON SALE
NOV 26th



STORY
BY
GARDNER
FOX

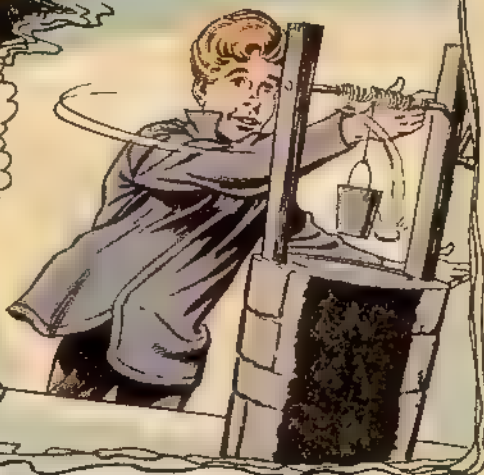
The ELONGATED Man

ART
BY
SID
GREENE

THE ELONGATED MAN
DREAMS--OF A WISHING-
WELL AND A MAGIC
COIN...

IT'S BILLY WARNER--
MAKING A WISH AS HE
TOSSES THAT "MAGIC"
COIN INTO A WISHING-
WELL!

A WISH
THAT
COMES
TRUE
BECAUSE
THAT
COIN IS
BUGGED!



...OF A
DIAMOND-THEFT...

TWO CROOKS--LISTENING IN ON
THE BUGGED COIN--LEARN ABOUT
THE STAR OF CALCUTTA DIAMOND
IN THE POSSESSION OF BILLY'S
DIAMOND-CUTTER GRANDPA!

THEY STEAL
THE DIAMOND! I
TRY TO STOP THEM
FROM GETTING AWAY
WITH IT WHEN--
OHhhh! I GET
KNOCKED OUT!



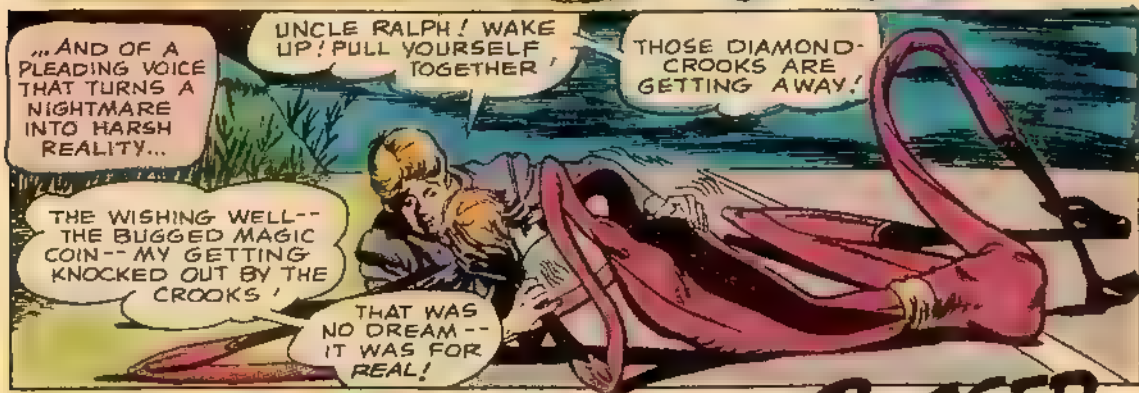
...AND OF A
PLEADING VOICE
THAT TURNS A
NIGHTMARE
INTO HARSH
REALITY...

UNCLE RALPH! WAKE
UP! PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER!

THOSE DIAMOND-
CROOKS ARE
GETTING AWAY!

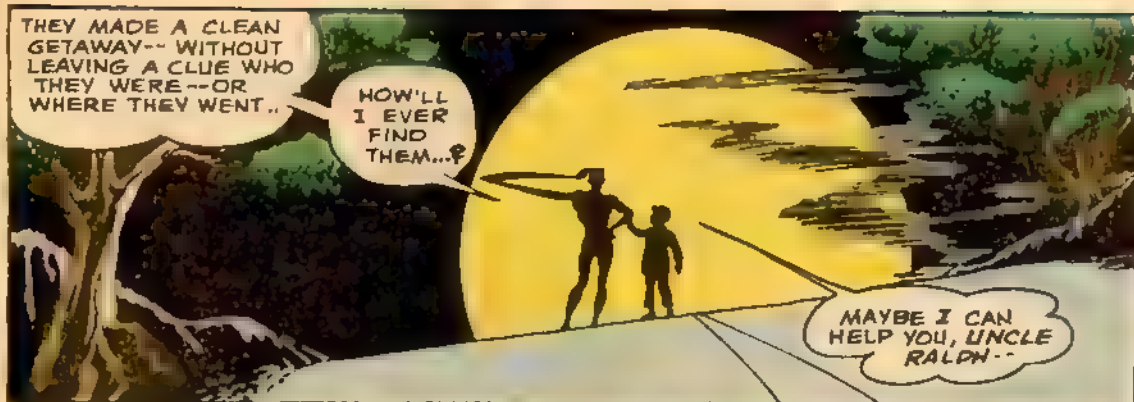
THE WISHING WELL--
THE BUGGED MAGIC
COIN--MY GETTING
KNOCKED OUT BY THE
CROOKS!

THAT WAS
NO DREAM--
IT WAS FOR
REAL!



YES, ELONGATED MAN!
JUST AS BILLY WARNER'S
WISHES CAME TRUE--
SO DID YOUR "DREAM"!
HURRY--PULL YOURSELF
TOGETHER AND GO IN--

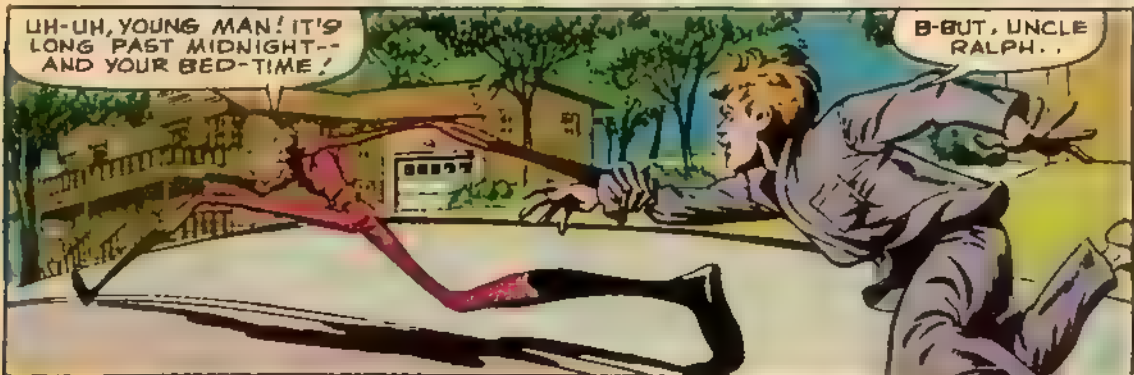
PURSUIT of BUGGED the BANDITS!"



THEY MADE A CLEAN
GETAWAY-- WITHOUT
LEAVING A CLUE WHO
THEY WERE--OR
WHERE THEY WENT..

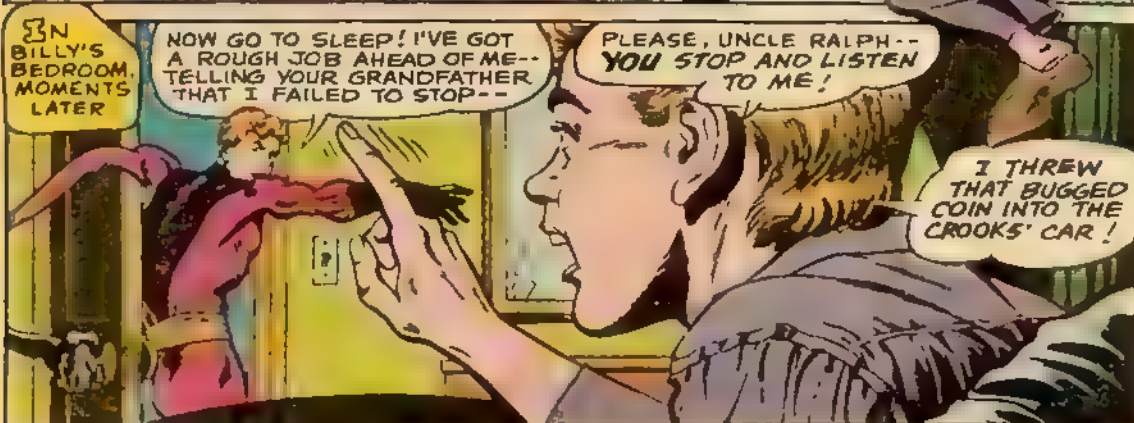
HOW'LL
I EVER
FIND
THEM...?

MAYBE I CAN
HELP YOU, UNCLE
RALPH--



UH-UH, YOUNG MAN! IT'S
LONG PAST MIDNIGHT--
AND YOUR BED-TIME!

B-BUT, UNCLE
RALPH..

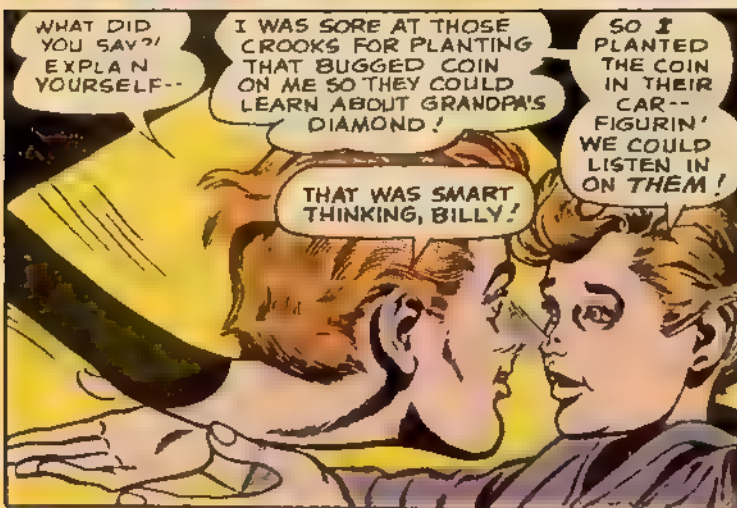


IN
BILLY'S
BEDROOM.
MOMENTS
LATER

NOW GO TO SLEEP! I'VE GOT
A ROUGH JOB AHEAD OF ME--
TELLING YOUR GRANDFATHER
THAT I FAILED TO STOP--

PLEASE, UNCLE RALPH--
YOU STOP AND LISTEN
TO ME!

I THREW
THAT BUGGED
COIN INTO THE
CROOKS' CAR!

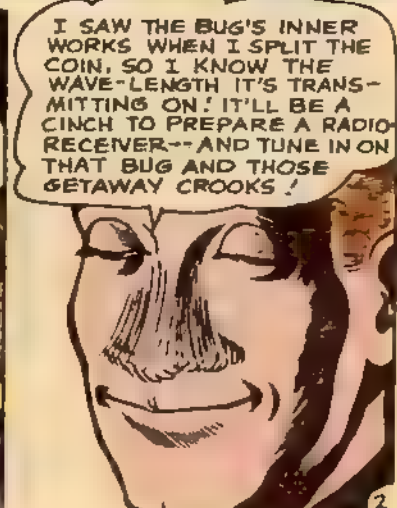


WHAT DID
YOU SAY?
EXPLAIN
YOURSELF--

I WAS SORE AT THOSE
CROOKS FOR PLANTING
THAT BUGGED COIN
ON ME SO THEY COULD
LEARN ABOUT GRANDPA'S
DIAMOND!

THAT WAS SMART
THINKING, BILLY!

SO I
PLANTED
THE COIN
IN THEIR
CAR--
FIGURIN'
WE COULD
LISTEN IN
ON THEM!



I SAW THE BUG'S INNER
WORKS WHEN I SPLIT THE
COIN, SO I KNOW THE
WAVE-LENGTH IT'S TRANS-
MITTING ON! IT'LL BE A
CINCH TO PREPARE A RADIO-
RECEIVER--AND TUNE IN ON
THAT BUG AND THOSE
GETAWAY CROOKS!

SOON AFTER,
AT POLICE
HEADQUARTERS...

MIKE, I'D LIKE TO BORROW
SOME RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR
A CASE I'M WORKING ON!

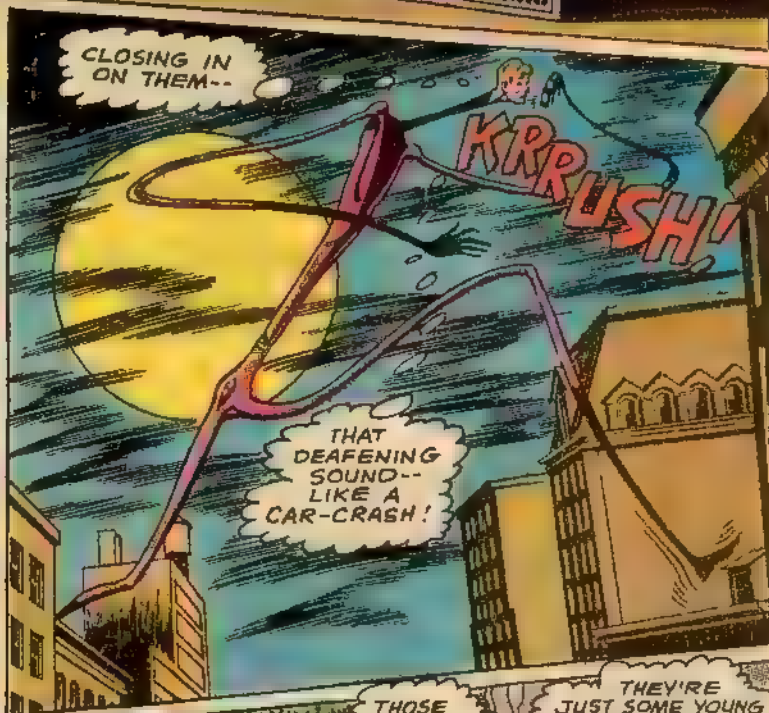
SURE THING,
ELONGATED
MAN! YOU
KNOW THE
POLICE IS
ALWAYS
HAPPY TO
COOPERATE
WITH YOU!

BUT WHEN THE RADIO-
RECEIVER IS COMPLETED
AND HE HAS TURNED HIM-
SELF INTO A HUMAN
ANTENNA TOWER...

LET'S SHOW
THEM CREEPS
WE AIN'T
CHICKEN!

HUH?
WHAT
AM I
TUNED
IN ON?

SOUNDS AS
IF THOSE
DIAMOND-
THIEVES ARE
OUT TO PICK
A FIGHT!
BUT WHY--?



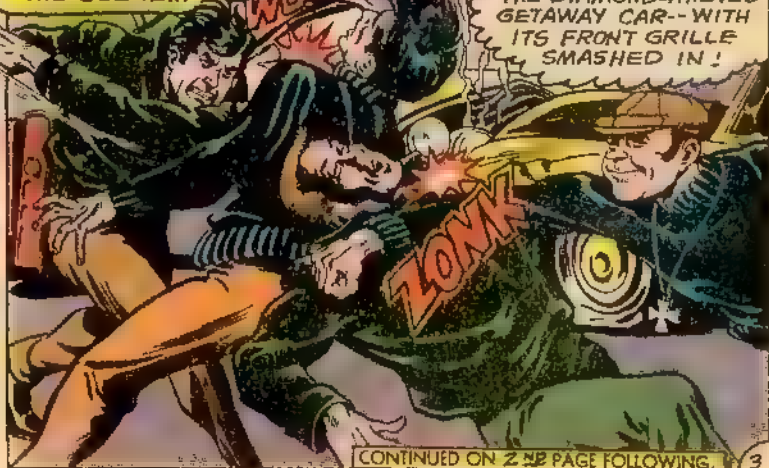
THAT
DEAFENING
SOUND--
LIKE A
CAR-CRASH!

AND WHEN
THE ELONGATED
MAN MAKES
THE SCENE...

THOSE
AREN'T
THE CROOKS
I'M AFTER!

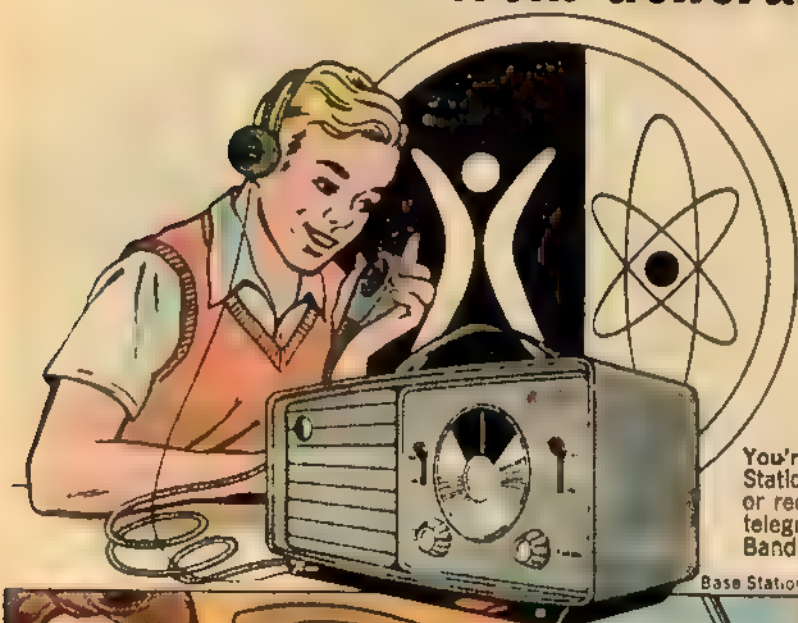
THEY'RE
JUST SOME YOUNG
PUNKS FIGHTING
EACH OTHER!

AND YET--THAT'S
THE DIAMOND-THIEVES'
GETAWAY CAR--WITH
ITS FRONT GRILLE
SMASHED IN!



CONTINUED ON Z-ME PAGE FOLLOWING. 3

Five fantastic new ways to have fun... from General Electric



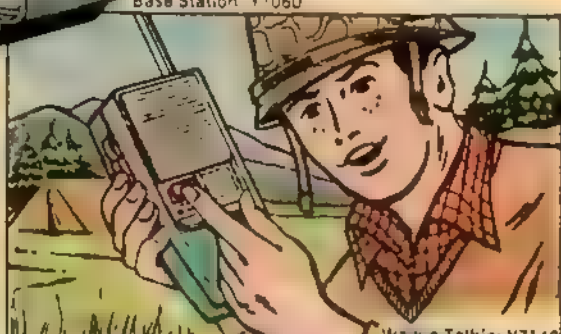
You're an announcer—on GE's Base Station, your own radio station. Send or receive by voice or code. Built in telegraph key. Listen to all 23 Citizen Band channels. AM radio too! \$29.95†

Base Station Y7060



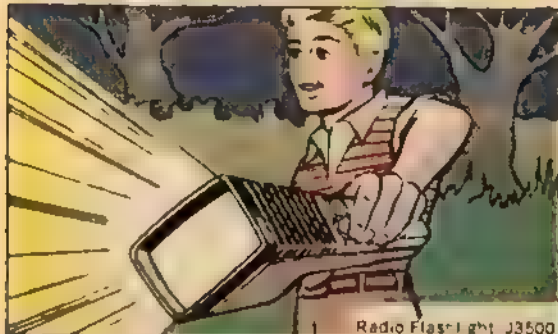
Chord Organ Y525

You're a musician—playing real music right away on GE's Electr-Chord Organ. 12 chords, 3 octaves, 37 melodic keys, volume control, big sound, easy-to-follow color-coded song book. All this for \$34.95†



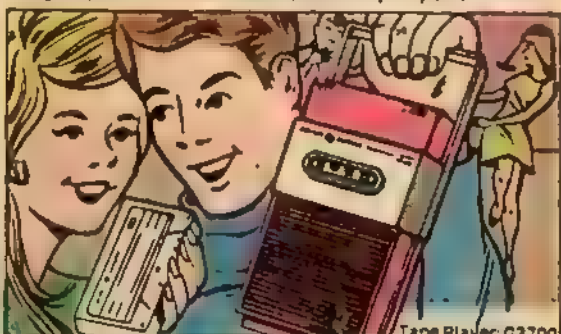
Wake-Talkie Y7140

You're a squad leader—calling up reserves via GE's Wake-Talkie. Send or receive voice or code. Has Morse Code printed right on its 48" whip antenna, range up to 1/4 mile.* Just \$19.95† per pair.



Radio Flashlight J3500

You're a forest ranger—lighting up the night while listening to your favorite programs on GE's Radio-Flashlight. Clamp it onto handlebars—a bike radio! Built-in rechargeable battery. Comes complete with recharging unit. \$12.95†



Tape Player G3700

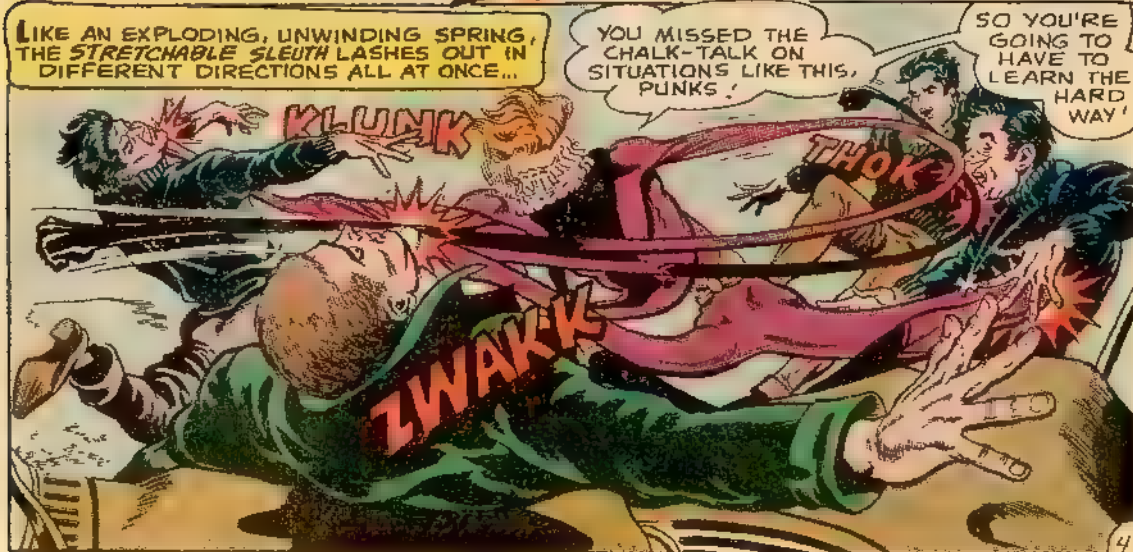
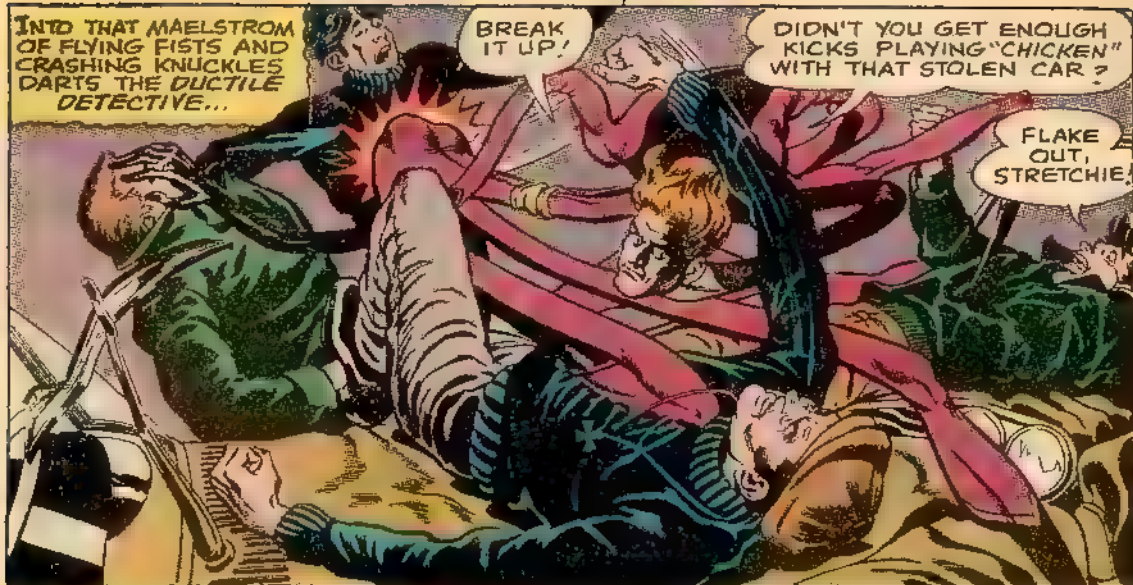
You're Master of Ceremonies—playing the gang's favorite music and stories on GE's handy battery-operated Tape Player. Just pop in the pre-recorded tape cartridges. Visit your GE man, soon. Just \$19.95†

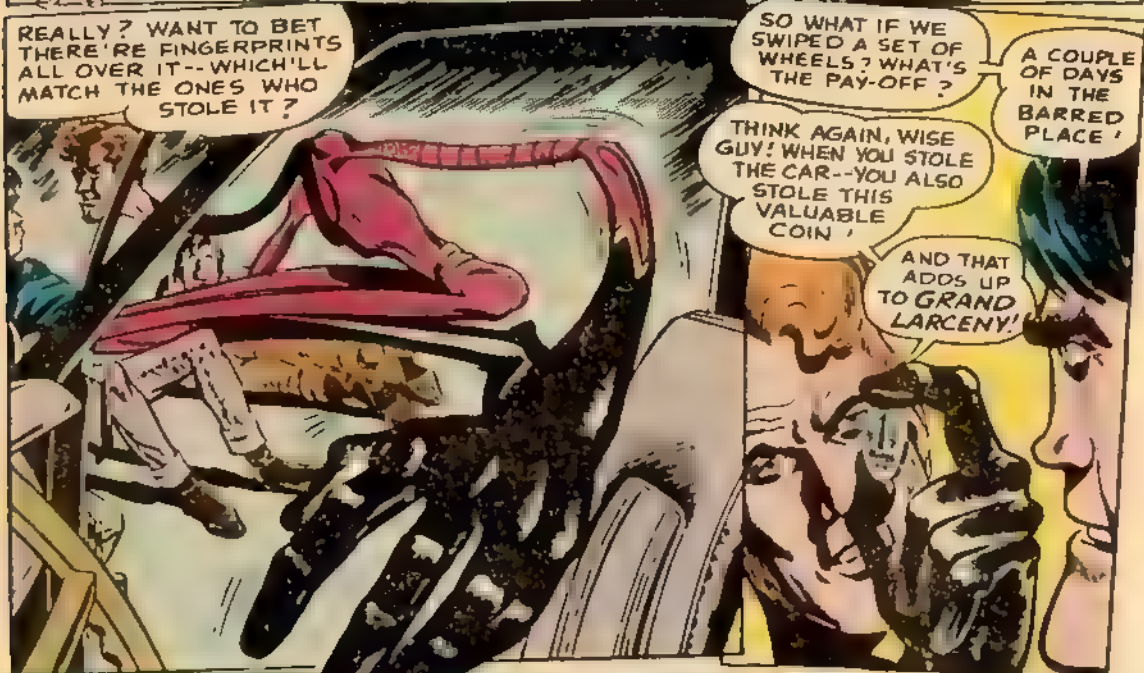
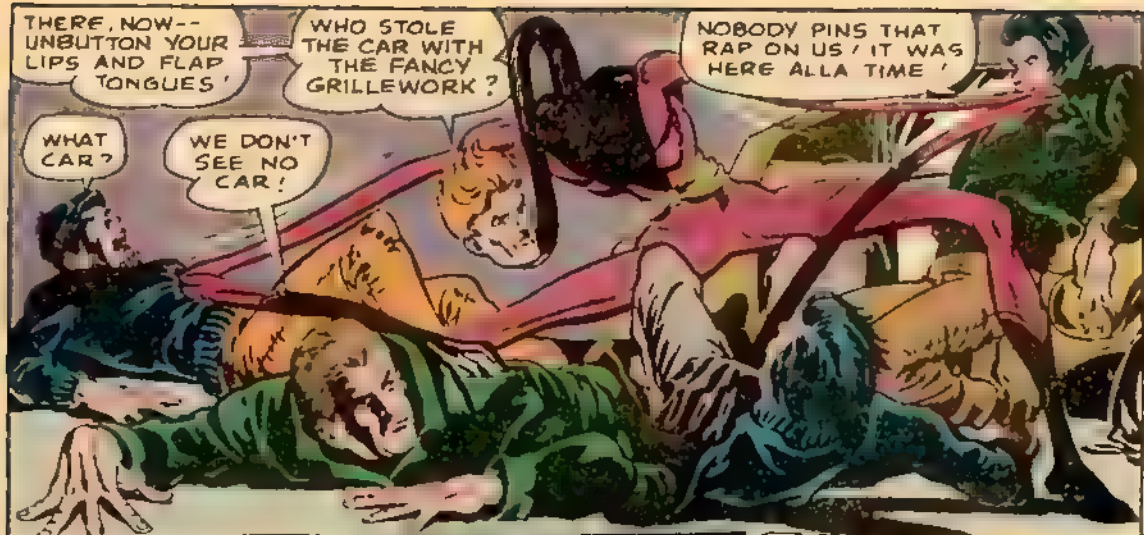
GENERAL  ELECTRIC

† Manufacturer's suggested retail price. Slightly higher South and West

Radio Receiver Department, Utica, New York

* depending on terrain and conditions





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B-52

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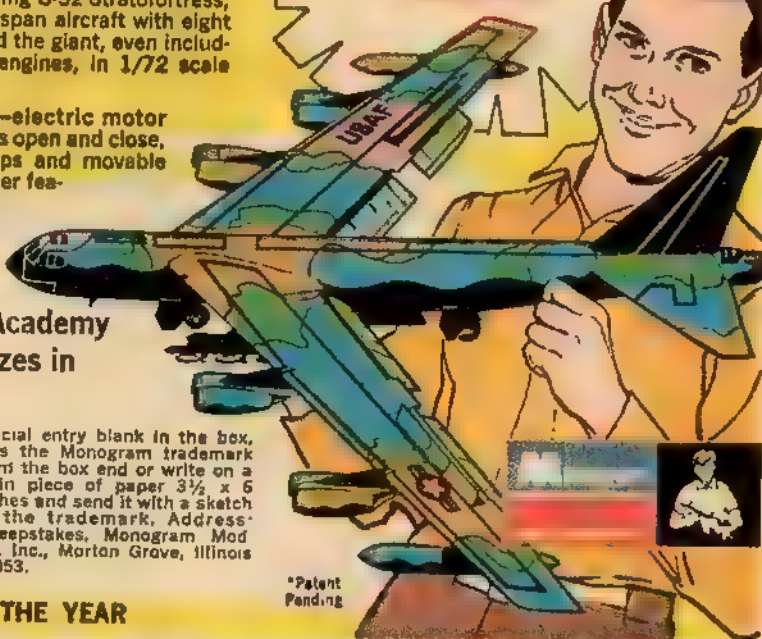
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official entry blank in the box, plus the Monogram trademark from the box end or write on a plain piece of paper 3 1/2 x 6 inches and send it with a sketch of the trademark. Address: Sweepstakes, Monogram Models, Inc., Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

THE MODEL OF THE YEAR

Electric Powered
**Jet Engine
Sound***



*Patent Pending



110 FOREIGN STAMPS
only 10c

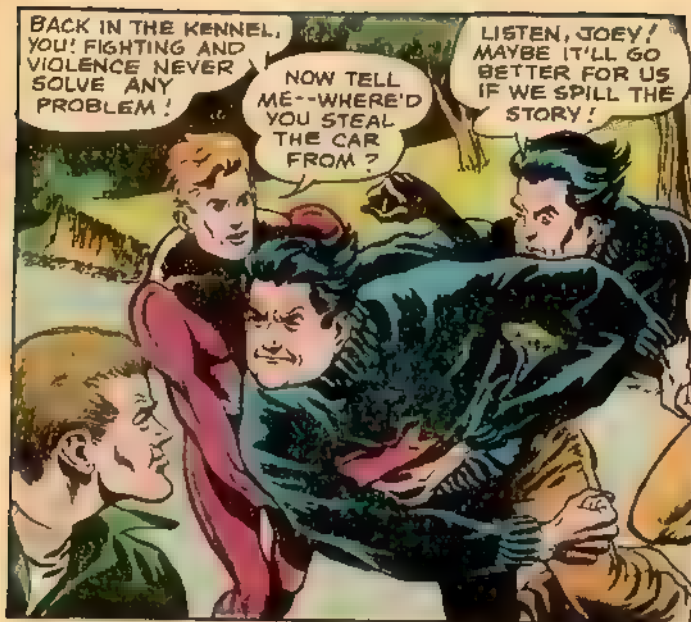
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BACK IN THE KENNEL, YOU! FIGHTING AND VIOLENCE NEVER SOLVE ANY PROBLEM!

NOW TELL ME--WHERE'D YOU STEAL THE CAR FROM?

LISTEN, JOEY! MAYBE IT'LL GO BETTER FOR US IF WE SPILL THE STORY!

OKAY, OKAY--I AIN'T GONNA FIGHT CITY HALL! WE STOLE THE CAR FROM IN FRONT OF 112 KENESAW AVENUE!

BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT NO COIN! WE JUST WANTED A CAR TO PLAY CHICKEN IN. NOBODY CHICKENED OUT--SO THE CARS SLAMMED TOGETHER!

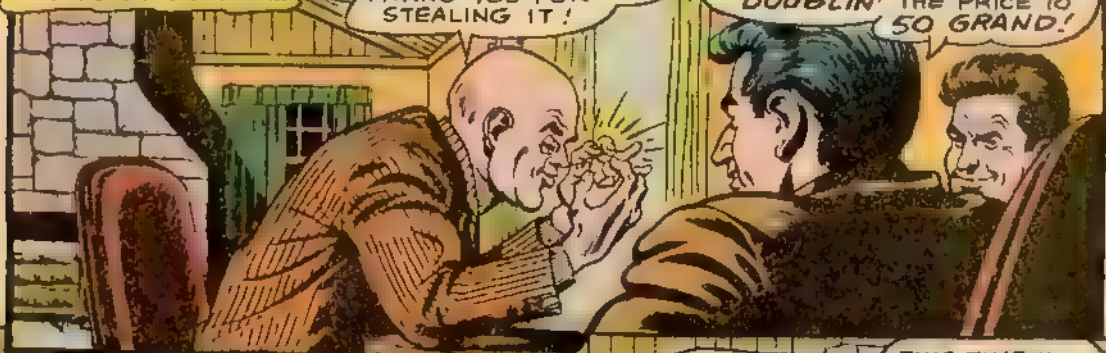
ALL RIGHT, BOYS--LET'S GO FIND THE POLICE!



A LITTLE LATER, AT 112 KENESAW AVENUE...

IT'S A BEAUTY--WELL WORTH THE 25 GRAND I'M PAYING YOU FOR STEALING IT!

THE SPARKLER'S SO BEAUTIFUL, CHARLEY--WE'RE DOUBLIN' THE PRICE TO 50 GRAND!



WHY YOU DOUBLE-CROSSERS! 25 G'S WAS THE AGREED PRICE!

I'LL CHECK WITH MY BUDDY, EDDIE, WHATTA YA THINK THE STAR OF CALCUTTA WILL BRING US?

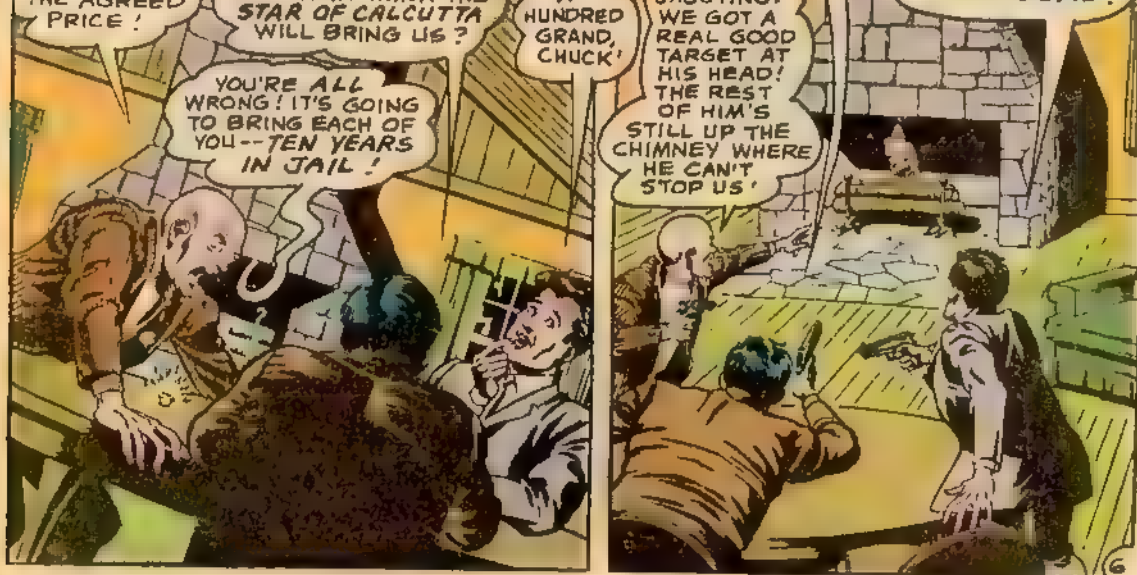
AT LEAST A HUNDRED GRAND, CHUCK!

YOU'RE ALL WRONG! IT'S GOING TO BRING EACH OF YOU--TEN YEARS IN JAIL!

ELONGATED MAN AGAIN?!

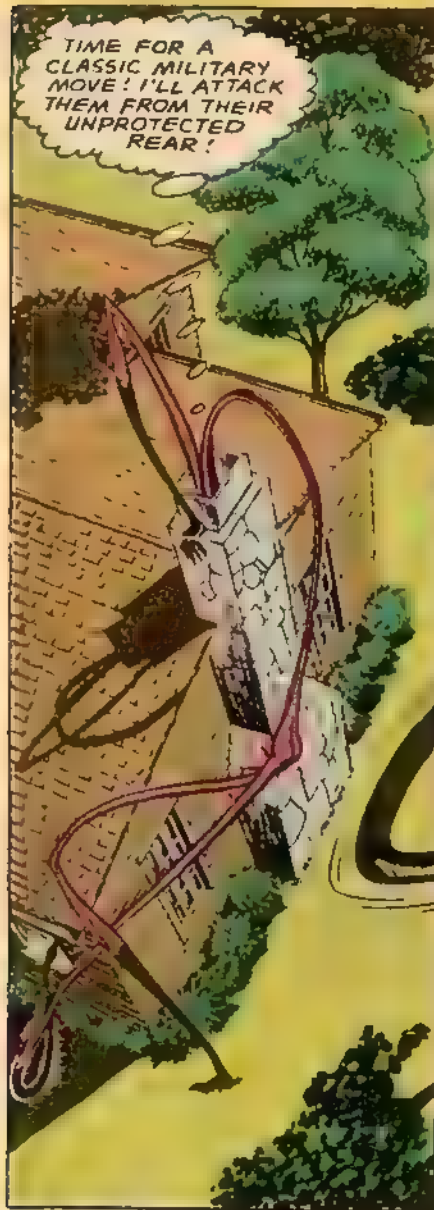
START SHOOTING! WE GOT A REAL GOOD TARGET AT HIS HEAD! THE REST OF HIM'S STILL UP THE CHIMNEY WHERE HE CAN'T STOP US!

THIS TIME WE AIN'T RUNNIN' OFF AND LEAVIN' YOU LAYIN' THERE--UNLESS YOU'RE DEAD!



OUTSIDE THE HOUSE, THE DUCTILE
DETECTIVE MAKES LIKE A LIVING
RUBBER BAND AS

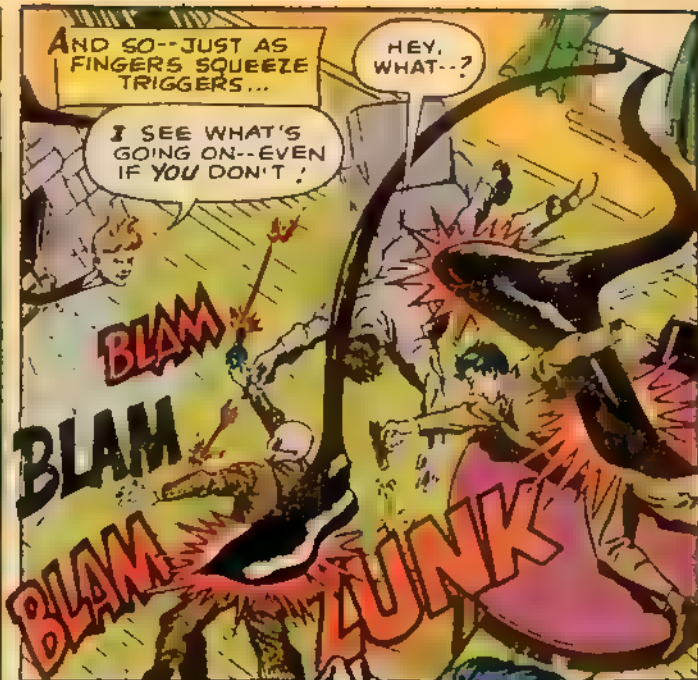
TIME FOR A
CLASSIC MILITARY
MOVE! I'LL ATTACK
THEM FROM THEIR
UNPROTECTED
REAR!



AND SO--JUST AS
FINGERS SQUEEZE
TRIGGERS...

HEY,
WHAT--?

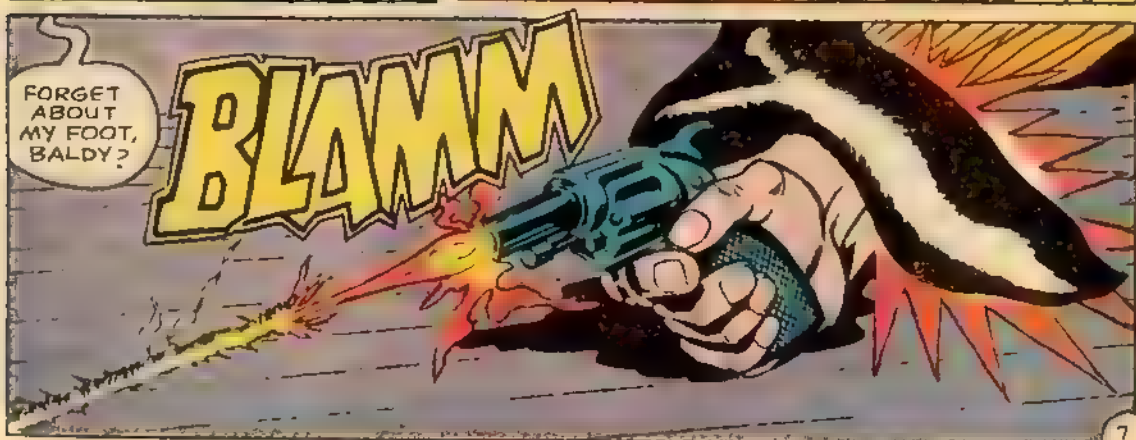
I SEE WHAT'S
GOING ON--EVEN
IF YOU DON'T!

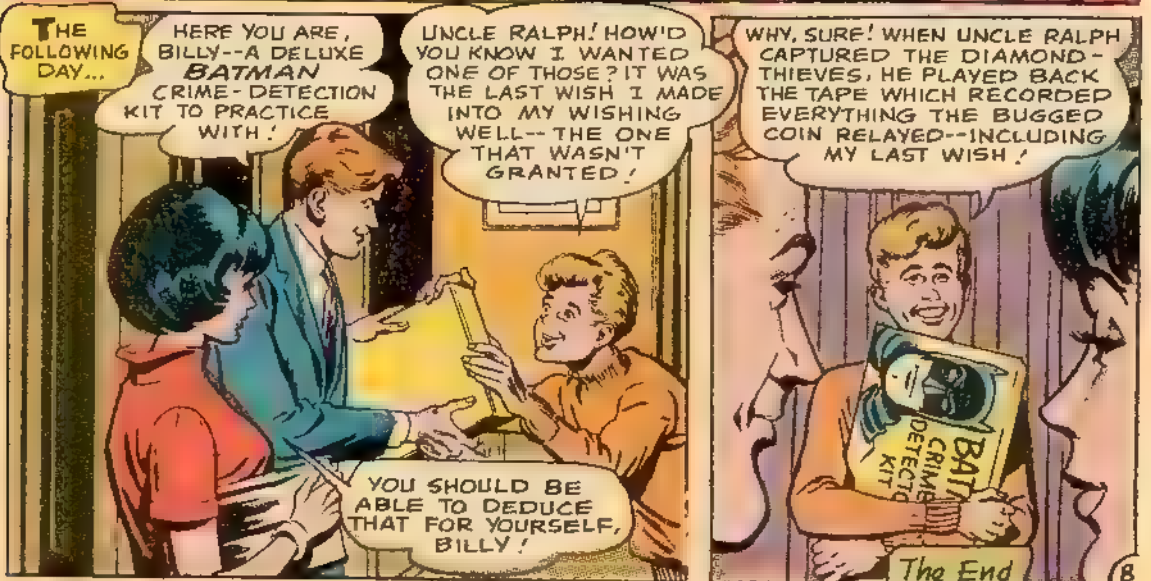
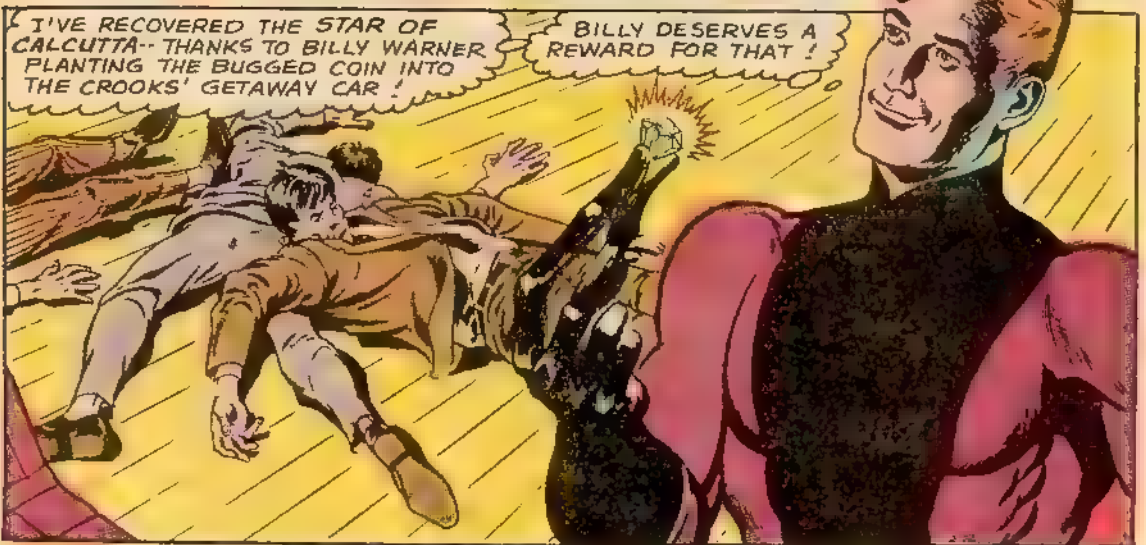
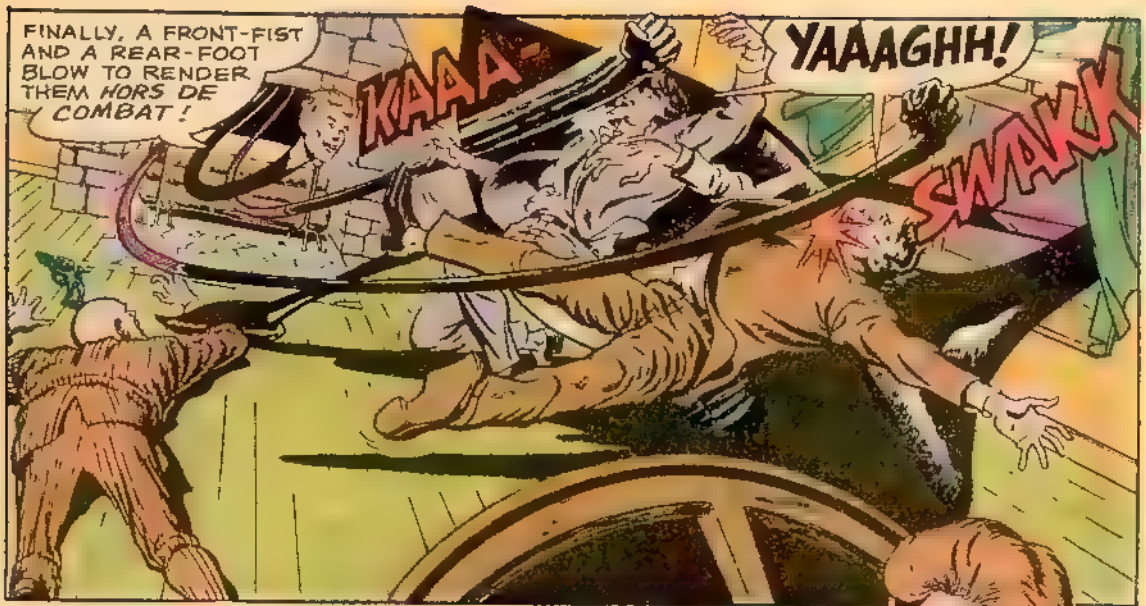


DON'T WORRY,
CHUCK! I GOT
HIM RIGHT
IN MY
SIGHTS!

FORGET
ABOUT
MY FOOT,
BALDY?

BLAMM





BATMAN'S HOT-LINE-EXTRA

Dear Editor:

SUBJECT: One Richard Grayson, alias *Robin*, the Boy Wonder.

Age: About 17. In fact, he's been that way for almost 30 years now. He suffers from *littleorpannius*.

Occupation: Super-hero and all-round bon vivant.

Present Condition: Oh, man, is he badly off!

Remarks: Young *Robin*, as you know, used to be the Perfect All-American Youth. Unafraid, intelligent, witty, strong and filthy rich besides. Every red-blooded (is there any other kind?) comic reader said, "I wish I were *Robin*—that is, if he'd stop wearing that idiotic costume!"

But then, one Frank Robbins entered his life. He had the idea, "Let's have young *Robin* rebel against the Establishment. First of all, we'll have him beat up on *Batman*. Why? No reason. Sure, *Robin* has been taking orders from *Batman* for 29 years. Sure, it has been shown again and again *Robin* has a deep respect for *Batman*. What better reason for beating up on *Batman*?"

Young *Robin* was taken aback at all this. He developed a complex. The once witty *Robin* took to saying things like, "Oh, dandy!" He was willing to befriend another teen-ager who might murder him. Also, he began thinking of *Chino* as not really such a bad guy after all. He had no proof for this theory. Indeed, people being groomed to take over crime-syndicates are pretty far gone. (We conclude with this final comment by Doctor Sanderson:)

Although quite suspenseful at the end, the *Batman* story in *Detective* 378 was fatally flawed. I agree with the doctor's analysis above, and also restate my oft-heard comment that if you're going to use non-costumed villains, they must be out-of-the-ordinary *comme* Johnny Witts and General Van Dort.

Oh, yes—young *Robin* was last seen in long hair and love beads rioting at Columbia University! A sad case.
—Peter Sanderson, Jr., Milton, Mass.

(Doctor, your education is showing—showing off too much!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In a year or so, new readers to DC will get a new . . . completely different opinion of the magazines. They will not be the fun-to-read cliché comics of the mid-sixties. Nor will they be the ridiculous ones of 1967. They will be greeted by the hard realism of life. Not life in *comics*—but solid realism now only being experimented with by a few writers.

Comic mags put out by DC have been pointing that way since the November, 1966 *Flash*—in which Iris and Barry tied the knot. John Broome presumably coaxed Ye Editor to let the pair marry, and a month later did the opposite in *Green Lantern*.

A year later, Carmine Infantino abandoned comic mag drawing. Since then Dick Giordano took over the editorship of George Kashdan's magazines, Gil Kane went in for commercial art, Frank Robbins took over

the "writership" of *Flash*, *Batman*, *Superboy* . . . the list of changes goes on and on, for all I know.

No doubt, in the long run, these changes will benefit DC. Like Frank Robbins, many or all of DC's writers will make their assignments life-like with the help of Ye Editor and Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director.

The August *Detective Comics* is a perfect example of these changes. Though I felt that this should happen to any other boy companion but *Robin*, the split with *Batman* was handled well. *Robin's* reason for breaking up with *Batman* was good, because *Batman* never did play *Robin* for all he was worth, or credit him so. I prefer solo *Batman* adventures, and if *Robin* and *Batman* remain split, it will be a good opening for a series of solo *Batman* and solo *Robin* adventures.

On the subject of *B&R*, over the 29 real years of their career, their personalities have changed completely. In early adventures, *Batman* was determined to *avenge* his parents' deaths and *war* on criminals. *Robin* had no personality.

In the middle '50's to the end of the old look (judging from *Batman Giants*), *Batman* was just a stern crime-fighting sleuth. *Robin* was an eager beaver kid. The *New Look* then removed any personality from *Batman* . . . until '68.

Frank Robbins—and Denny O'Neil—are the best things that have happened to DC in years. To make a world of comics that can literally involve the reader is indeed an achievement. I hope to see the return of three-part novels in which the splash-openers for the parts are full-page blasts. But this is a childish whim. What I'm sure most readers want for *Batman* are "detective" stories—with *Batman* acting out the role he does best—*detective*.

Keep DC a company (or corporation?) with stories in which you can smell the garbage in a slum and identify with realistic characters—and your present generation of readers will be followed by others . . . and others . . . hopefully forever.

—Clement Robins, Sheffield, Mass.

(Leave it to a Robins to chirp his praises for another Robins—even if there's a "B" lacking between them!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

If I were a crook—which I hasten to add I am not—I would *never* go anywhere near the city where *Batman* operates because there have been 379 issues of *Detective Comics* to date—which means there have been 379 (plus!) crooks in *Gotham City* who have been nabbed by the *Masked Manhunter*! When will those miscreants ever learn?

—George Dolack, Passaic, N.J.

(When and if that day ever arrives, we'll have to change the title of this mag to *Utopia Comics*!—Editor)

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

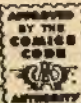
YOU'LL NEVER GUESS...



80 pg. GIANT 25c

NO. 208

FEB.



BATMAN

WHO IS THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN BATMAN'S LIFE?



IS SHE...
BATGIRL?
BATHWOMAN?
CATWOMAN?
POISON IVY?
VICKI VALE?
OR...SOMEONE ELSE??



THE ANSWER
MAY BE FOUND
IN THIS EXCITING
80 PAGE GIANT
BATMAN!
ON SALE
NOV 12th
AT YOUR FAVORITE
NEWSSTAND!!

80 PG. GIANT BATMAN

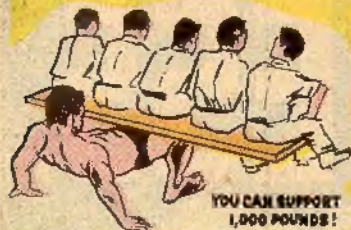
IMPORTANT WOMEN IN HIS LIFE

25c

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WHEN YOU KNOW THESE
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- ★ Bend heavy spikes with your hands

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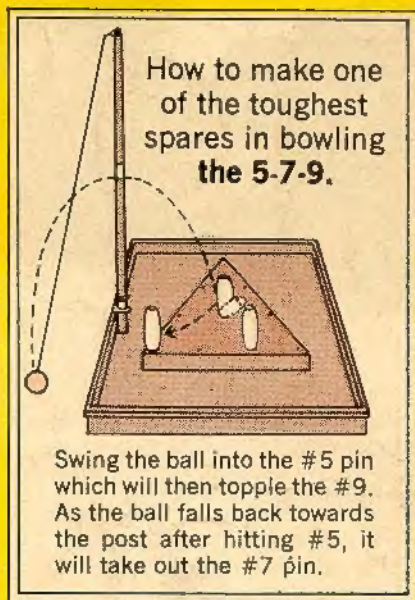


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